

So much for Dockery and free negroes. Now for Dockery and slaves.

In the House of Commons of the same Legislature a bill was introduced "to prevent the emancipation of slaves by will." A motion was made to kill the bill by laying it upon the table. *Dockery voted against the motion.* A motion was made to insert in the bill a provision authorizing free negroes to become slaves, and *Dockery voted for the motion*, and when the bill came up on its final passage it was defeated, *but Dockery voted for it.* See House Journal, pages 229, 497, 498, 499 and 500.

To sum it all up in a few words, then, Dockery was quite willing to make slaves of free negroes, but utterly unwilling to make freemen of slaves; now free negroes are his chosen allies. Verily, water is not the only thing that will find its level, for Dockery has found his. But what a level! with a lot of free negroes!

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## DOCKERY AND THE SPECIAL TAX BONDS.

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On October 4, 1875, the special order in the Constitutional Convention was:

An ordinance to amend Sec. 6, Art. 1, of the Constitution, providing for the repudiation of the special tax bonds.

The substitute offered by the committee was as follows:

"No future General Assembly shall levy any tax or raise any money to pay the principal or interest of any of the bonds of the State issued in aid of any railroad corporation under the authority of the Constitutional Convention held in 1868, or by the authority of any subsequent General Assembly bearing date between the first days of January, 1868 and 1875, without first submitting the question to the qualified voters of the State."

Mr. Durham offered a substitute that the General Assembly shall have no power to levy taxes for the payment or adjustment of more than five per cent. of the special tax bonds, etc.

Mr. Jarvis moved to amend this substitute by striking out the words "more than five per cent. of"—thus taking from the Legislature all power to pay anything on the special tax bonds.

Mr. Young moved to lay the whole matter on the table. The motion did not prevail. *Dockery voted aye.*

Mr. McCabe moved that the Convention now adjourn. Lost. *Dockery voted aye.*

The question was put on Jarvis' motion to strike out the words "more than five per cent.," and the amendment prevailed.

The effect of this was to take from the Legislature power to pay or adjust the special tax bonds. *Dockery voted no.*

A division on the question was ordered. The question recurred on that part of the ordinance which prohibited the General Assembly from levying any tax or raising any money to pay the new bonds, without first submitting the matter to the qualified voters, and this part of the ordinance was rejected. *Dockery voted no.*

That ended the matter. Those who were opposed to repudiating the special tax bonds were in the majority. The measure fell.

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*Dockery voted to lay on the table.*

*Dockery voted to adjourn.*

*Dockery voted against Jarvis' amendment that the Legislature should have no power to levy taxes to pay or to adjust the special tax bonds.*

*And Dockery voted against the measure on its passage and it was defeated.—See Convention Journal, page 196.*

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In 1879 the Democratic Legislature passed a bill amending the Constitution in that particular, however, and it was adopted by the people on November 3d, 1880.

No thanks to Dockery! Nor to Morton!